

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An air duct register for use in a finished ceiling in a room for connection to a flexible duct about the ceiling comprising:

a manifold housing adapted for connecting to the duct located above the finished ceiling, said manifold housing having an opening at the bottom to provide ~~providing~~ a fluid passageway from the duct to the room;

a ceiling clamp operably associated with the manifold housing for attaching the manifold housing within a hole of the finished ceiling, the ceiling clamp having an actuator accessible from below the finished ceiling; and

a ~~removable separate~~ manifold collar cover piece ~~releasably~~ attachable to the housing in a position covering within the second ~~an~~ access opening in ~~the~~ a side wall of said manifold housing, wherein ~~the second~~ said access opening has a peripheral edge and at least one portion of the peripheral edge has an inwardly directed ledge lip, and wherein said collar cover piece has a groove double edged flange portion for securing to the inwardly directed lip receiving said ledge with said cover piece positioned over said access opening.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The air duct register of claim 1 wherein each ceiling clamp further comprises:

a thumb-cam for actuating the clamp.

4. (Currently Amended) The air duct register of claim 1 ~~further comprising;~~  
wherein said a removable manifold collar cover piece is releasably attached to the manifold  
housing by snap fit portions thereof.

5. (Original) The air duct register of claim 4, wherein the manifold collar includes  
a plurality of retaining barbs for connecting to the flexible duct.

6. (Currently Amended) The air duct register of claim 2 wherein said housing has  
~~a first access opening at one end for positioning in a ceiling and a second~~ access opening in a side  
wall of the manifold housing is positioned oriented at about 90° from the first access to said  
opening at the bottom.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An air duct register for use in a finished ceiling in a room  
for connection to a flexible duct extending above the ceiling comprising:

a manifold housing connected to an end of ~~adapted for connecting to the flexible~~  
duct located above the finished ceiling, said manifold housing providing a fluid passageway from  
the duct to the room;

a ceiling clamp operably associated with the manifold housing for attaching the  
manifold housing within a hole ~~of~~ in the finished ceiling, the ceiling clamp having an actuator  
accessible from below the finished ceiling; and

~~a removable separate manifold cover piece collar releasably attachable attached to~~  
the manifold housing and positioned over said ~~within the second access opening formed in the a~~  
manifold housing side wall, and wherein the manifold piece has a collar receiving said flexible  
duct end has with a through aperture in said collar sized to correspond with the flexible duct and  
~~defined by a peripheral wall, and wherein one end of the wall has a plurality of retaining bars for~~  
~~connecting to the flexible duct~~ said separate manifold cover piece has portions extending out from  
said collar configured to cover said access opening when said cover piece is in position against said  
side wall of said manifold housing.

10. (Currently Amended) An air duct register according to claim 9 further  
including for use in a finished ceiling in a room for connection to a flexible duct above the ceiling  
comprising:

~~a manifold housing adapted for connecting to the duct located above the finished~~  
~~ceiling, said housing providing a fluid passageway from the duct to the room;~~

~~a ceiling clamp operably associated with the manifold housing for attaching the~~  
~~manifold housing within a hole of the finished ceiling, the ceiling clamp having an actuator~~  
~~accessible from below the finished ceiling; and~~

~~a removable manifold collar releasably attachable to the housing within the second~~  
~~access opening in the side wall, further comprising a rotatable door releasably attachable disposed~~  
within the manifold collar, and wherein said door is positionable between a fully open and a  
fully closed position.

11. (Currently Amended) The air duct register of claim 9, wherein said door is held in a ring which the other end of the peripheral wall forms a ledge for receiving a is releasably attachable door received in said collar and releasably attached thereto.

12. (Currently Amended) The air duct register of claim 10, wherein the door is movable to a position from fully opening the ~~passageway~~ through aperture through fully closing the ~~passageway~~ aperture.

13. (Original) The air duct register of claim 1, wherein the manifold housing has a radiused and smooth interior for the fluid passageway.

14. (Currently Amended) An air duct register for use in a finished ceiling in a room adapted to be connected to a flexible duct extending above the finished ceiling comprising:  
a manifold housing having an upper portion adapted to be connected to said flexible duct and having a bottom portion adapted to be fit into an opening in said ceiling, said manifold housing substantially enclosing a space defining a passageway directing airflow from said duct into the room;

a bottom opening at said bottom portion of said manifold housing for discharging air flow through said ceiling opening with said housing bottom portion in position within said ceiling opening;

said manifold housing further including a separate side wall cover piece having outer portions configured to normally in a position covering cover a side opening in said manifold

housing substantially larger than said flexible duct to allow said duct to be easily pulled through said side opening~~but readily detachable and able to be drawn into the inside of said manifold housing~~, said side piece configured to be movable in and out of said manifold housing through said bottom opening and readily attachable to said manifold housing in position covering said side opening by interfitting portions of said side wall piece and portions of said manifold housing adjacent said side opening;

said side wall piece having formed with a collar having a through opening and a projecting end ~~extending around a duct opening therein~~ projecting axially outwardly when said ~~side wall~~ cover piece is located in said position covering said side opening; and,

a ceiling mounting arrangement carried by said manifold housing for securing said manifold housing to the finished ceiling, said ceiling mounting arrangement accessible from below the finished ceiling to enable mounting of said manifold housing to said finished ceiling, whereby a flexible duct can be pulled through said manifold housing side opening with said side piece detached and out through said housing bottom opening and finished ceiling opening, and thereafter attached to said side wall piece collar with said ~~side wall~~ cover piece separated from said manifold housing, said ~~side wall~~ cover piece and attached flexible duct thereafter being able to be pushed back through said manifold housing bottom opening and said ~~side wall~~ cover piece attached to said manifold housing in said position covering said manifold housing side opening.

15. (Previously Presented) The air duct register of claim 14 wherein the manifold housing is configured to be inserted up through said finished ceiling opening from below said finished ceiling.

16. (Currently Amended) The air duct register of claim 14 wherein said ceiling housing arrangement comprises a pair of ceiling clamps mounted to said bottom portion of said manifold housing; and

each ceiling clamp includes a thumb screw having a head manually rotatable to actuate a clamping member threaded thereto to engage and grip an adjacent section of said finished ceiling.

17. (Currently Amended) The air duct register of claim 14, wherein said ~~side-wall~~ cover piece and said manifold housing have interfit portions locating and holding said ~~side-wall~~ cover piece in said position covering said side opening

18. (Currently Amended) The air duct register of claim 17, wherein said manifold housing and ~~side-wall~~ cover piece interfit portions are snap fit together to make said ~~side-wall~~ cover piece releasably attachable to said manifold housing when positioned covering said side wall opening.

19. (Currently Amended) The air duct register of claim 18, wherein said manifold housing side opening is defined by a peripheral edge and at least one portion of the peripheral edge has an inwardly directed lip and said ~~side-wall~~ cover piece has a mating double edged flange portion for receiving the inwardly directed lip therebetween when said ~~side-wall~~ cover piece is installed covering said side wall opening.

20. (Currently Amended) The air duct register of claim 19, wherein said side wall piece has a top edge received in a slot formed at the top of the inside of said housing adjacent said side opening and the bottom of said side wall cover piece has a deflectable tab projecting from said lip projecting wall aligned with a slot in said housing side opening peripheral edge ledge and snap fit thereto when said side wall cover piece is pushed against said peripheral edge ledge of said side wall opening.

21. (New) A method of installing an air duct outlet in an existing ceiling and connecting the same to a flexible duct extending above the ceiling comprising:

cutting a hole into the ceiling sized to receive a manifold housing open at the bottom with an access opening formed therein substantially larger than said flexible duct to allow said flexible duct to be readily pulled into said manifold housing;

pushing said manifold up into said ceiling hole and mounting the same to said ceiling with the bottom adjacent said ceiling;

pulling an end of said flexible duct into said housing through said access opening and down below said ceiling through said open bottom of said manifold housing, attaching said duct end to a separate cover piece configured to be fit against the inside of said manifold housing so as to block said access opening, said cover piece formed with a collar with a through opening formed therein to which said duct end is attached, and attaching said cover piece to said manifold housing with portions of said cover piece extending outwardly from said collar in

position covering said manifold housing and extending over said access opening to block said access opening.